



Department of Commerce
Innovation is in our nature.

Growth Management Services

PLANNER'S UPDATE

A monthly newsletter to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State

APRIL 2014 / ISSUE 74

Welcome to the Planner's Update an electronic newsletter from the Department of Commerce, Growth Management Services. We send this newsletter monthly to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State.

Please feel free to send us any comments or ideas for how to make this newsletter more useful. You can also use the link below to provide additional names of planners who might like to subscribe.

Please also consider sharing this newsletter with planning commissioners.

Jeffrey S. Wilson, AICP
Senior Managing Director
Growth Management Services
jeff.wilson@commerce.wa.gov

To subscribe to this newsletter please send e-mail to
linda.weyl@commerce.wa.gov

IN THIS ISSUE

1. [Grant Application Webinar](#)
2. [2014 Governor's Smart Communities Award Nominations](#)
3. [Department of Commerce Housing Guidebook](#)
4. [Minter Creek Watershed Strategies](#)
5. [Puget Sound News Bulletin](#)
6. [GMS Unit Announcements](#)

SCHEDULES

Regional Planners Forums
Short Course Schedule

QUICK LINKS

www.commerce.wa.gov/growth
www.washington-apa.org
www.smartgrowth.org
www.planningpaw.org
www.mrsc.org

1. GRANT APPLICATION WEBINAR

Growth Management Services held a webinar Thursday, March 20 on the grant application for local governments with plan updates due in 2016. One-third of the 30 eligible local governments participated. If you want future webinars on the grant program or have ideas for future webinars that you would like to see contact Matt Ojennus at 360.725.4047.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

2. 2014 GOVERNOR'S SMART COMMUNITIES AWARD NOMINATIONS

Request for nominations for the 2014 Governor's Smart Communities Awards were posted March 17. Forms are available on the Commerce website at www.commerce.wa.gov/growth. This year's judges will be Lucy Steers, Holly Gadbaw, Tom Campbell, Steve Lundin, Judy Wall and Xandre Chateaubriand.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

3. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE HOUSING GUIDEBOOK

Commerce used its experience with the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) to update its GMA Housing Guidebook. The new NSP and GMA Housing Planning Guidebook tackle several of the challenges that local governments face today after the Great Recession.

The new Housing Guidebook looks at housing planning from the perspective of the market place. The first three chapters of the Guidebook describe the housing crisis and how Washington responded to it through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The rest of the guidebook pertains more specifically to housing planning.

The NSP and GMA Housing Planning Guidebook belong on desktops as a valuable resource. It contains dozens of links to other resources. It provides timesaving tips. The new guidebook includes several references to important studies and reports.

The Guidebook is available only online through this website. The following links will enable you to download your copy of the entire guidebook or individual chapters

[BACK TO TOP](#)

4. MINTER CREEK WATERSHED STRATEGIES

The Washington State Department of Commerce, with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program, partnered with Kitsap and Pierce Counties to address regional planning for the Minter Creek watershed basin. The purpose of this effort was to look at land use within the watershed basin, and provide recommendations for upcoming Comprehensive Plan updates under the state Growth Management Act. This is part of the Counties' efforts to implement the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda to restore Puget Sound.

The Minter Creek watershed lies in both Kitsap and Pierce Counties. The Counties engaged in an innovative partnership to look at future land uses within the Minter Creek basin at a watershed level. Because the watershed lies in both counties, land uses that occur upstream in Kitsap County have an impact downstream on land in Pierce County and Minter Bay. The

Counties wanted to look together at the watershed as a whole rather than separately by county boundaries.

The Counties convened a group of partners and interested participants, facilitated by Commerce, to carry the discussion of future land use forward. The group met monthly from September 2013 to January 2104. The outcomes of these meetings are action recommendations to the counties, including possible amendments to land use plans. Go to the [Minter Creek Watershed Strategies](#) web site for more information and the final report to Pierce and Kitsap Counties.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

5. PUGET SOUND NEWS BULLETIN

Grant proposals are currently under review for 12 applicants proposing Land Use related actions to protect and restore Puget Sound. Applications were submitted under one of three themes available from the Watershed Protection and Restoration Lead Organization, co-hosted by the Depts. of Ecology and Commerce. Proposal topics vary widely, and include river corridor planning, climate change assessment and adaptation planning, urban re-development in high growth locations, stream typing to improve habitat protection, updating critical areas policies and codes, protecting agricultural resource lands, and promoting more TDR Programs. Grant awards totaling about \$1.2 million will be announced in early April and recipients will have 2.5 years to complete their projects. Updated information will be available at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/puget_sound/grants_fed_watershed.html or by contacting Doug Peters at Commerce Growth Management Services, 360-725-3046 or doug.peters@commerce.wa.gov

[BACK TO TOP](#)

6. GMS UNIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tim Gates, AICP, is leaving Growth Management Services and heading to Ecology.

After nine years serving as the water resources and shorelines “guru” for Growth Management, Tim is on the move to the Department of Ecology, where his obviously unique talents will be put to work Shoreline Management Policy Lead. Tim’s last date in Growth Management is April 15th, and he will be starting at Ecology on April 16th.

Tim came to Commerce to be a Senior Planner from the Department of Ecology in 2005, with a background in Shoreline Management and an appetite for Growth Management. He has served local governments well in the last nine years – assisting San Juan, Island, Kitsap, Mason, Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties, and the cities within them, with GMA updates and compliance issues. Tim was loaned back to Ecology by Commerce for three of those nine years to assist with Shoreline Management Plan updates. Tim’s recently has been working on Building Cities in the Rain, an effort to develop incentives and cost-effective approaches to encouraging infill development within urban centers while addressing stormwater requirements. Tim is now returning to Ecology as the Shoreline Management Policy Lead, where he will continue to be an important resource for local governments.



Tim's new contact information will be at (360) 407-6522, tim.gates@ecology.wa.gov

Heather Ballash will be the point of contact for Tim's former Commerce projects. Heather can be reached at (360) 725-3044, heather.ballash@commerce.wa.gov

[BACK TO TOP](#)